

School Sport SA Sapsasa state carnival

Softball Rules for all divisions

1. All games at School Sport SA Sapsasa State Carnival will be played in accordance with:
 - 1.1. Softball Australia Official Playing rules
 - 1.2. State Carnival Sapsasa Softball Rules
2. **Games consist of 60 minutes**
 - 2.1. If teams are drawn after 60 minutes the game shall not continue and the drawn result shall stand. No game shall progress past 60 minutes. No new innings to start after 55 minutes.
 - 2.2. At the time of 60 minutes lapsing, the batter in the batter's box completes their turn at bat and all subsequent plays, before the umpire calls time.
 - 2.3. In an incomplete innings, the score shall revert to that of the last even innings unless the team second at bat has more runs when time expires or in its incomplete innings has tied the score, and then the score shall stand.
 - 2.4. Time will be kept by the umpires.
3. **Five run limit**

A five run limit per innings applies in this competition.
4. **Pitcher / catcher restriction**

A single pitcher or catcher cannot play more than 2 innings in that position during any one game. If a pitch is thrown in any innings that will constitute an innings.
5. **Dropped third strike**

On the third strike, a batter will be out regardless if the catcher receives the ball on the full from the pitcher.
6. **Overthrow on fenced and non fenced diamonds**

A maximum of one base on an overthrow will be awarded to baserunners.
7. **Pass ball from the catcher off a pitched ball**

A maximum of one base will be awarded to baserunners, runners can't score from third on a pass ball. All other runners may advance if there is an empty base in front of them.
8. **Infield Fly**

A fly ball hit to the infield with first and second base occupied will not automatically be called out.
9. **No walk rule**

There will be no walks. If a pitcher has delivered 3 balls, the batter will then hit off the tee which should be placed in front of home plate. It is the responsibility of the batting team to put their own tee out as quickly as possible. It must be a full swing off the tee and not a bunt. On a safe hit off the Tee the batter may advance a maximum of two bases. Base runners can run within all other rules and not limited to two bases. **When batters are hitting off the tee the pitcher must stand on the dot marked behind the pitching plate and not move until after the ball has been hit. If the pitcher moves early fields the ball the umpire shall call "dead ball", and the situation is replayed.**
10. **Strike outs**

Batters can get struck out by called or swinging strikes. If the batter receives 3 balls and the Tee comes out, the count remains so if they get three strikes they will still be out. A third strike ball hit foul off the tee is out. A swing and miss off the tee is a strike.
11. **Stealing bases**

Stealing bases is permitted in accordance with softball rules. After 3 balls have been delivered by the pitcher, "Dead Ball" is called by the umpire for the tee to be brought out. Bases cannot be stolen after dead ball is called.
12. **Warm up pitches**

No warm-up pitches will be permitted during game time.



Softball State Carnival Organisation

13. Equipment

- 13.1. Batters and base-runners must wear a batting helmet. This includes a player acting as a 1st or 3rd base coach.
- 13.2. Fielders are not required to wear a face shield however it is recommended to wear mouth guards or face shields.
- 13.3. All catchers are to wear a chest protector, leg guards, and catcher's helmet and face mask.
- 13.4. A 10.5" softcore ball shall be used
- 13.5. All teams in must supply a tee
- 13.6. Each fielding player must wear a glove
- 13.7. Bats should be regular softball bats with non-slip grip covering the handle, and the length/weight of the bat should be suitable for the size of the players. End loaded baseball bats are not allowed.
- 13.8. Players are not permitted to wear metal cleats

14. Diamonds

- 14.1. 1st named team bat first and takes 1st Base Bench.
- 14.2. 2nd named team field first and takes 3rd Base Bench.
- 14.3. Diamonds are marked, with baselines of 60' and pitching distance of 35'

15. Teams

Teams shall consist of 11 players. Districts are encouraged to use all players in each game using substitute rule. This is easily done as all players bat in each game.

16. Interchange rule

Substituted players may be returned to a game at any time, without restriction. **All team members bat.**

17. Warm up pitches

No warm-up pitches will be permitted during game time.

18. Illegal pitching

Intentional Base on Balls are not to be used in this carnival.

No penalty will be awarded for an illegal pitch. The pitcher is to be informed of why an illegal pitch is called. However, a pitcher will not be permitted to gain any definite advantage.

19. Unfinished games due to weather

- 19.1. Games may be stopped or abandoned at the discretion of the Carnival Manager.
- 19.2. Results and decisions regarding playable weather will be made by School Sport SA staff.

20. Speed up Play Rule

- 20.1. Teams are to 'hustle' on and off between innings.
- 20.2. The fielding side is expected to provide a player to take care of pass balls
- 20.3. Catchers speed up rule is to be used to ensure innings changeover is timely.

21. Team 'warm-ups'

Warm-ups should be conducted well away from games in progress. All catchers must wear full protective equipment when warming up a pitcher.

22. Umpires

School Sport SA (with the support of Softball SA) will provide student umpires for all games. **Important: Coaches and players** are to acknowledge that umpires may be relatively inexperienced, and they must accept the umpires' decisions and focus on their skill development, learning and enjoyable participation.

Failure to compete in the right spirit may result in a team being penalized a premiership point.

23. Scorecards

Each team is responsible for keeping score. At the completion of the game teams need to confirm their scores. The winning team is responsible for putting one scorecard in the scorecard box ASAP.

24. Carnival awards

- 24.1. Gold and silver medals will be presented to players in the 1st and 2nd placed team for each division. Participation certificates will be awarded to all players.
- 24.2. If more than one team finishes in equal first position in a division, then the title will be shared and joint winners announced. No silver medals will be awarded if equal winners.
- 24.3. Percentage is not taken into account when determining the premiership table to discourage teams from scoring more runs than necessary and demoralising their opposition.